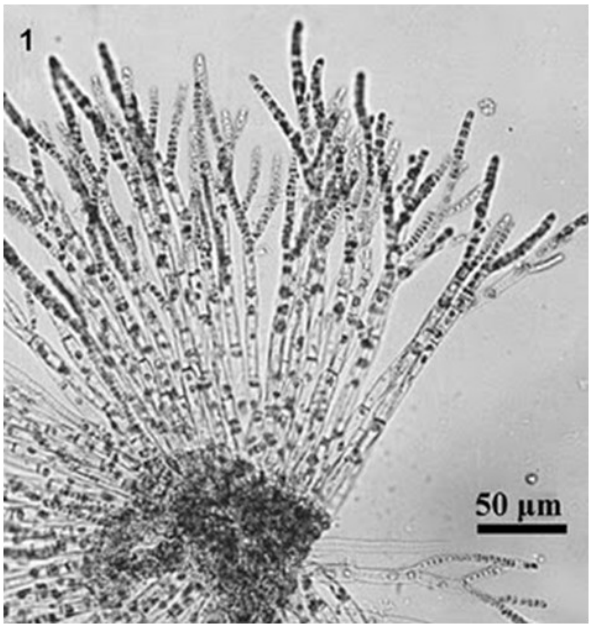
Microspongium globosum

Brown Alga, Phaeophyta



Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
    - Observed to grow on the cryptogenic brown alga Delamarea attenuata, attached to oyster floats at Tatitlek, Alaska
    - Algal invasions can be of great concern because introduced species can have serious ecological consequences by competing with native macroalgae
    - Introduced species can eventually lead to changes in community structure and food webs
2. Invasive Potential
    - Brown Alga can typically reproduce and disperse from fragmentation of plant parts that then can be carried by ocean currents or humans
    - Short distance dispersal can occur by the gametes (sperm and eggs) being carried on ocean currents
    - As fouling organisms, brown algae can have ecological consequences when introduced to new habitats
3. Geographic Extent
    - Locally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
    - There are no known eradication techniques currently being used for brown alga

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: North Atlantic and Japan
2. Introduced: Alaska
3. Habitats
    - Marine, aquaculture, host, intertidal zones
    - Inhabit intertidal and subtidal zones of coastal waters, typically attached to rock, coral, or other firm surfaces. Collected in midlittoral zone, as epiphyte on Cladophora, Polysiphonia, Bryopsis, and old blades of Zostera in Sea of Marmara

Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast water and sediments
2. Stocking in open water
3. Natural spread
4. Short-term disturbances that facilitate introduction

Non-Native Locations

1. 54- Gulf of Alaska

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. Frontiers in ecology and the environment. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment

3. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_VA6LePZ6KNY/SlrPgfxuzmI/AAAAAAAABsU/kI6x3d5dDkc/s320/Microspongium+globosum.JPG
4. http://www.algaebase.org/search/species/detail/?species_id=277